AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the following paragraphs as set forth below.

Paragraph beginning at page 12 line 15

Next, from those letter strings, the dependent claim identification part picks out numeral strings "?*" and letter strings between them (i.e., "through," "to," or "and"). If a combination of numerals and a letter string such as "1 through 3" is picked out, then it is replaced by "1, 2, 3". Through this process, the claim containing that string turns out to be a dependent claim, a claim dependent on the ~~independent~~ parent claims 1, 2, and 3.

Paragraph beginning at page 12 line 20

In this manner the claims in Fig. 3 are analyzed so as to obtain hierarchical relationships therebetween as shown in Fig. 4, which is a hierarchical claim relationship management table showing the ~~independent-dependent~~ parent-dependent correspondence between the claims.

Paragraph beginning at page 12 line 23

Based on this table, the claim tree display means displays a claim tree as shown in Fig. 5. This figure shows one of the feasible display styles, in which, on the basis of ~~independent~~ parent claims, the dependent claims are linked to them using a solid line, and claim numbers appear more than once.

Paragraph beginning at page 13 line 3

Also, based on the same hierarchical claim relationship management table, another display style as shown in Fig. 6 is feasible for the tree display means, in which, on the basis of ~~independent~~ parent claims, the dependent claims are linked to them using a solid line, but claim numbers appear only once.